ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

OF THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,

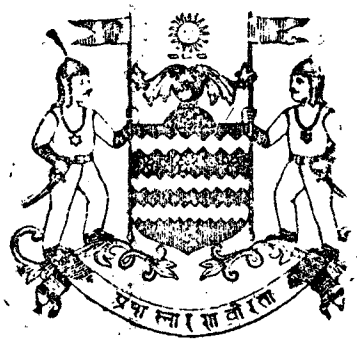
JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE,

FOR

THE VIKRAMA YEAR 1974 (A.D. 1917—18),

BY

PANDIT HIRANANDA SHASTRI, M. A , M.O L. etc.



JAMMU :

Printed under the supervision of DIWAN ALIM CHAND, G. C., Supdt R. P. Press,

27-8-76—200.

1919.

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on 24 February, 2020

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT.

PART I.

1. I took over charge of my office as Superintendent of Archæology on the 5th Baisakh 1974 from Sardar Mul Singh Khosla who relieved Mr. Daya Ram Sawhney on his reversion to the Archæological Survey Department of India. I was out in camp for 97 days which were spent in the inspection of the ancient monuments of the valley and getting first-hand knowledge of their state of preservation. In addition to those at the metropolis. I inspected more than fifty monuments and supervised the conservation work at Pandrethan, Avantipura, Pattan and Bandi near Mohura.

The time spent at headquarters was devoted to studying the various arts, ethnographic and archæological exhibits in the Sri Pratap Singh Museum with a view to re-arrange, classify and display them with suitable labels, and collecting material for writing a guide book for the ancient monuments of Kashmir which was contemplated upon in consultation with Sir John Marshall, the Director-General of Archæology in India.

2. *Establishment.*—My head clerk was on medical leave for one month when the Record-keeper officiated for him. A temporary overseer was appointed on a consolidated pay of Rs. 80 per mensem in the month of September 1917 to assist the permanent overseer in the supervision of conservation work at different places. The permanent overseer was deputed to assist the draftsman of the Director-General of Archæology in India working at Gulmarg on special duty and I am glad to say that his work, as I expected of him, was appreciated highly. During the year under review eleven drawings were prepared excluding those made for the Director-General of Archæology in India. Their list is appended below. They are working plans which I had to get drawn for having the conservation work carried out by the outdoor sub ordinates. Some of these were prepared in consultation with Sir John Marshall. The photographer was sent on tour to take photographs and gather traditional accounts of a few monuments and sites which were to be reported on and whose archæological value was to be ascertained. He took forty photographs as will be seen from the detailed list appended below. They mostly represent antiquities which were not photographed before. Some of them represent images which are worshipped and, as such, are not easily accessible to camera, and being good specimens of mediæval sculpture possessing great artistic merit they are invaluable for working out the history of sculpture in the State. In passing I may mention the image of Durga at Bijbehara, of Bhairava at Aishmukam, and of Vishnu at Thanamandi, (Jammu Province). The latter display a marked resemblance with the sculpture to be met with in Kangra and are evidently the work of an identical school. They are also valuable for the study of ethnography of the Province. Mention may also be made here of the photograph of a picture which I got on loan along with a few more from the Durbar of Mandi, a hill State of Kangra. It represents W. Moorcraft, the well-known traveller of the Himalayan districts, seated on a chair in front of the chief of Mandi. The value of the accounts which this sagacious traveller has supplied in his itinerary is too well-known to require any corroboration. I am not aware if a portrait of this traveller exists elsewhere. The subject of the photos taken at Hathinala in the Province of Jammu are presumably associated with some historical event of the reign of Jahangir as will appear from the epigraphs on them noticed below.

3. *Preservation of monuments.*—The work of conservation was carried on at eight different monuments, namely, Pattan temple A, Pattan spring, Dhathamandir or the Bandi temple, Sankaracharya temple, Siva temple at Pandrethan, the Avantipur temple, and the Nishat-Bagh, the total cost of expenditure on it as detailed in the appendix A being Rs 6,691-5-1 out of the budgeted grant of Rs. 7,000. The work of repairs to the Leh palace was done through the Public Works Department and the sum spent on it during the year under report was Rs. 2,950. Owing to the fact that a trip to Leh would require some two months and thereby oblige the Superintendent to keep other works in abeyance, the palace at Leh and the other interesting monuments in Ladakh have not been so far visited by him. This is the

more to be regretted as this part of the State is replete with archæological material and a tour in it is sure to yield very valuable results. It is to be hoped that an early opportunity will be taken to make a tour in Ladakh and examine the various antiquities in it carefully with a view to prepare their descriptive list and write conservation notes where needed.

4. *Epigraphy.*—The dearth of inscriptions in the State has very often been noticed by scholars with regret. Occasionally some documents do come to light but they seldom prove of much historial value and importance. This year the Department copied five inscriptions which are all on stone and perhaps not noticed before. Three are in Sanskrit, one in Arabic and the last in Persian. Of these two are in Kashmir and the rest in Jammu. Of the former, one, though short, is complete and lying preserved in the possession of Lachman Guru at Bijbehara. It consists of three lines, measuring 5½" long, written in *Sarada* script and Sanskrit language. It records the construction of a circle or orb (Sanskrit *mandala*) of the Sun-god on the 7th day of the bright fortnight of Vaisakha in the year 52 of the Sastra era by one preceptor Kamalasri during the reign of Sri Rajadeva. Both these persons are not mentioned by Kalhana. The ruler named in the record must have been posterior to the chronicler and may be safely indentified with the King of that name mentioned by Jonaraja. The epigraph reads as follows:—

Line 1. *Om sam 52 Vaisakha suti 7 paramesvara Sri Raja.*

Line 2. *devarajye acharya Kamalasriyena loka (ke).*

Line 3. *svara Bhattaraka mandalamekam pratipaditam.*

"In the year 52, the 7th day of the bright fortnight of Vaisakha, in the reign of the illustrious lord Rajadeva, the 'orb' of the Sun-god, lord of the world was set up by the teacher Kamalasri."

The second also has three lines written in the same script as well as language. But owing to its bad preservation it hardly admits of a connected reading. Apparently it is the record of consecration of some image or temple by a Rajanaka whose name appears to be lost. It lies at Thanesvara in the Province of Jammu in the possession of one Damodar Gosain.

The third epigraph when compared with the foregoing ones is pretty large, the inscribed surface being 14" by 12" in extent. It lies in the civil dispensary at Kotli in the Mirpur District and is said to have been dug out when a well was being sunk close by. Proposal has been made to bring it over to Srinagar for preservation in the Museum. It is badly damaged, a fact which is much to be regretted for the record, as can be surmised from the names it mentions, could have thrown considerable light on the history of the locality. It is written in *Sarada* alphabet and Sanskrit language by one who, as is evidenced by the name of *tragartha* (Sanskrit *traigartta*) we find in it, was no scholar. The nature of it is not certain yet the use of the word *rajanaka*, line 3, in the dative and *yarajaputrena* (line 5) in the instrumental case would go to indicate that it was possibly a record of some gift. The use of the name of Kangra *viz.*, *trigartta* in the locative case would go to indicate that the persons to whom it pertains were subject to Kangra. If the inscription was really found *in situ*, it will go to show that the place where it was dug out *i.e.* Kotli, formed part of *Trigartta* or the principality of Kangra. If so, the record will be of considerable interest for it will show that Kotli in mediæval ages to which it can be ascribed on palæographic grounds was under the sway of Kangra or Jalandhar and not Kashmir though Kalhana in his chronicle says that petty chiefships of the hills to the south and south-east of the valley of Kashmir were generally subject to Kashmir.

The remaining inscriptions copied this year belong to the Province of Jammu. One, as remarked above, is in Arabic though written in Persian characters. It is lying on a grave near an old *serai* some three miles to the east of Rajauri and records the death of one Muhammad Salim, the son of Muhammad Saleh of Tehran, in the year 1074 of the Hijri era who was apparently entombed there. It reads

as follows :—

هو الغفور

قد توفي الفاضل العالم المحتاج الي غفران ربه الكريم ابن محمد صالح محمد سليم الطهراني في سنه اربع وسبعين بعد الالف من الهجرة النبوية الصلوة طاهره

"Mohammad Salim son of Mohammad Saleh of Tehran, a learned and God-fearing man died in the year 1074 of the Hijri era."

The other inscription is at a spot called Hathinala near the village of Khodi in the Rampur Rajauri Tehsil of the Jammu Province Now it lies in the house of the *numberdar* of the village. Formerly, it is said, it was cemented on to the statue of an elephant which is standing there. The tradition is that the other statue of an elephant, standing close by had a similar epigraph, which is now lost. It is confirmed by the fact that right in the lower part of the necks of these two figures a mortice is still to be seen and the inscribed slab copied exactly fits in these. Presumably both these inscriptions formed one record as is indicated by the incomplete nature of the epigraph under notice. The loss of the other portion is to be regretted for the record possesses considerable historical value. As it is the inscription reads thus :—

الله اکبر

او شد بالي گج تعلم از اهتمام مانها کرد چون ما شبتشاله جهانگرش براه آمي گج

بهر احتمام از حرف تاریخ هجری جوانستم جل جلاله گفت بود سال بیستم از جلوس بادشاه

عبده عبد الغفور

It seems to mean this. This statue of) Bali Gaj (powerful elephant) was completed through the agency of Manhal at the arrival of the Emperor Jahangir. I asked of my intellect the date in the Hijri (reckoning) and she said that it was the 20th year of the reign of the Emperor *i.e.* the year 1035 according the *abjad* reckoning. The name written at the bottom *i.e.* Abdul Ghaffur the slave of God is persumably the name of the writer. The names given on the sides are of this statue and the agent mentioned above. The words on the top reading Allah-hu-Akbar mean God is great.

5. *Sri Pratap Singh Museum.*—In the year under report I made valuable additions to the archæological section of the Sri Pratap Singh Museum as its Honorary Secretary and Curator. They will be noticed along with other acquisitions in the progress report of that institution Here I may mention some of them in passing Those requiring foremost mention are the 77 tiles which I secured through Sir John Marshall from a local dealer They belong to the tomb of Madani which is situated near *Nut Kadal* in Srinagar. Such coloured tiles are perhaps nowhere else to be found in Srinagar and are of special interest. The tile work to be seen at the said building is quite different from that which is commonly seen in India. The building to which they belong apparently is pre-Mughal and they serve as specimens of tile work on masonry buildings erected in Kashmir before the Mughal ascendancy One of these tiles represents the paw of a leopard which is to be seen on the southern half of the spandrel of the great archway in the east façade of the tomb. As similar pictures are found in the art of other countries also such specimens will be very valuable in determining the influences bearing upon the architecture of Kashmir during the pre-Mughal period about which little is known at present. The date of the tomb of Madani is pretty certain. The tomb adjoins the mosque of the saint of that name and is *a priori* coeval with it. The date of the mosque is shown by the inscription over the door-way to be the year A. H. 848 *i.e.* A. D. 1444.

Here it may be remarked that but for the prompt action taken in the matter these interesting relics would have possibly gone out of the State territory as some have already done. Therefore, it is extremely desirable nay essential in the interest of Kashmir Archæology that the traffic in antiquities be made penal as is done in British India.

The other acquisition worth being mentioned here is the stone image which possibly represents Kartikeya. It has the figure of a peacock, the symbol of the Indian Mars, but has one face instead of six. Though stiff in make it is a fairly good specimen of the early mediæval Brahmanical sculpture of the valley. Besides these, two gold coins of the late Kushan period and 232 coins of different dynasties were also secured and deposited in the Museum.

PART II

Conservation of Monuments

Special attention was given this year to the temple which stands midway between Uri and Rampur opposite the 76th mile-stone and is the first monument that a visitor to the happy valley comes across on his way up the Jhelum Valley road to Srinagar. Sir John Marshall and myself inspected it to discuss the question of its conservation and settle the various details connected with it. The result of our joint inspection is embodied in the following note which was drawn up with a view to conserve this interesting monument thoroughly and finally. Every archæologist who happened to see it held the opinion that it required early attention, and thorough conservation. So I started my work on it and am glad to say that some of the items noted below were properly attended to this year. The rest will be finished next year if adequate funds are made available. At present the monument is known by an undesirable appellation of Dhathamandir (ruinous temple) but I hope after the proposed conservation it will require a proper christening, for then that will certainly be a misnomer!

Central shrine. (*a*). Dismantle east wall and rebuild it according to the old alignment which can be seen at the south-east corner. Before rebuilding is commenced foundations must be made secure by relaying stones where necessary in concrete.

(*b*). This also applies to the lower courses at the north-east corner of the temple which will have to be reset horizontally before the blocks, which have been dismantled, are put back in their places.

(*c*). It is not practicable to rebuild the southern and western sides of the shrine although they are by no means secure. The foundations on these sides are fairly strong and it will probably suffice to build up or strengthen the interior south-west and north-west corners—

i. by backing the top of the existing walls with two or three feet of masonry in lime,

ii. by tying in the face stones, if necessary, with galvanised rods let into the new masonry backing.

Some repairs have recently been done in plaster in the interior of two corners but the plaster work is unsatisfactory and should be redone in cement concrete with an admixture of the green stone used in the temple broken into small fragments. Care should be taken that the new concrete is laid parallel with the existing face of the walls but set $\frac{3}{4}$" back.

The arch on the west side is in a parlous condition and can be strengthened by tying in some of the blocks indicated above and also by setting a long light steel beam over the arch and, if necessary, stirrupping the arch stones to it.

Before any stones are dismantled on the east or any other side they must be carefully numbred and photographed in position. The numbers should be clearly painted on them in paint which can subsequently be removed.

Courtyard. 1. Water which can accumulate in the courtyard must be drained off. Possibly a drain existed at the north-west corner which should be examined and if the old drain is found to exist it should be reopened. If a new drain is needed it should be carried beneath the road into the nallah.

2. All loose débris should be cleared away from the courtyard. Large stones should be restored to their positions or set on the walls near their former positions.

3. The pavement should be relaid to falls where necessary and cleaned.

4. Small shrines in the courtyard should be tidied up.

5. Remove all loose stones from kanjur walls of the surrounding cells and consolidate remains of the walls by relaying top layers in lime. The lime must not be visible.

6. Strengthen the back wall of the courtyard and regrade the bank at the back so as to carry off all water.

7. A simple wooden fence should replace the present fencing which with its masonry pillars looks hideous and ought to be removed. The space in front enclosed by the fence should be properly turfed and suitable climbers (roses and clematis) planted by the side of the wooden fencing. The plot just opposite the mile stone and round the telegraphic pole should be tidied up together with the old houses and then properly turfed and slopes made where necessary.

The Avantipur temple.

The conservation work done at the Avantipur temple during the year consisted of some excavations at the south and east sides and clearance of the débris thrown in front of the sanctuary during previous years. Earth at both the sides, namely, south and east, has been cut to 1 to 1 slope leaving a space of about 23 feet round the temple to give a better view of it. A culvert has been constructed at the south-west corner to drain the water, which collects in the temple and its compound, into the river.

The temple on the Takht hill.

Here no work could be done except dressing of stones collected for repairs to be carried next year.

Temples at Pattan.

The work done at temple A at Pattan consisted of general clearance, turfing and putting a fence round the land belonging to the sanctuary. The miniature temple in the spring near the Dâk Bungalow together with its tanks and stone pavement was practically rebuilt and provided with pacca steps and a gate as well as outlets. The ground outside was properly levelled and tidied up.

Mughal gardens.

At Nishat Bagh some repairs were done to the main Baradari and the surrounding wall on the east side. At Shalamar the work done consisted of reroofing the two baradaris on the extremities of the cross channels opposite the marble pavilion.

Mention may be made here of the estimate prepared for the conservation of the Verinag garden in accordance with the results of a joint inspection of the Revenue Minister, the Director of Agriculture and the Superintendent of Archæology and the estimates of special repairs to be done at Chashmashahi, Nishat and Shalamar gardens in accordance with the recommendations made by Sir John Marshall.

HIRANANDA SHASTRI,

Superintendent Archæological Department,

JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE.

Appendix A.

Statement showing expenditure on conservation of monuments in the Vikrama year 1974.

Serial No.	Name of monument.	Amount spent during 1974. Rs. A. P.	Remarks.
1.	Pattan temple A ...	601 5 10	
2.	Avantipur temple ...	2,183 14 9	
3	Paraspur stupa A ...	27 6 9	
4.	Temple in spring at Pattan ...	1,183 10 5	
5.	Martand temple ...	82 11 3	
6.	Sankaracharya temple ...	480 5 0	
7.	Dhathamandir ...	1,037 8 0	
8.	Nishat Bagh ...	1,121 3 0	
9.	General Works ...	337 11 7	
10.	Work Charge Overseer ...	247 10 2	
	Total ...	7,303 6 9	

Appendix B.

List of drawings prepared by the overseer under directions of the Superintendent of Archœology during Samat year 1974.

Serial No.	Kind of drawing.	Tracing or original.	Scale.	Remarks.
1.	Plan of restoration of roof of Sankaracharya temple. ...	Original.	½" 1'	
2.	Sankaracharya temple (detail of ventilator). ...	do.	4" 1'	
3.	Working plan for clearance work and retaining wall at Avantipur temple. ...	do.	20" 1"	
4.	Working plan for general clearance work at Pattan temple A. ...	do.	20' 1"	
5.	Plan of Pattan temple A showing the peristyle which is buried under ground. ...	do.	12' 1"	
6.	Proposed gateways at Shalamar garden. ...	Tracing.	4' 1"	
7.	Plan of Chashmashahi garden.	do.	16' 1"	

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Appendix C.

List of Photographs taken in Samvat year 1974.

Serial No.	Register No.	Kind of Photograph.	Size.	Remarks.
1.	511.	Brass image of Jina.	3½" 6½"	
2.	512.	Do.	do.	
3.	513.	Stupa at Ushkar (north-west side)	do.	
4.	514.	Do. (north-east side)	do.	
5.	515.	Payar temple (west).	do.	
6.	516.	Remains of a stupa at Malangpura.	do.	
7.	517.	Do.	do.	
8.	518.	Image of Lakshmi in possession of Lakshmana Gura at Bijbehara.	do.	
9.	519.	Temple at Martand.	do.	
10.	520.	Do.	do.	
11.	521.	Do.	do.	
12.	522.	Image of Bhairva at Aishmukam.	do.	
13.	523.	Zin Shah's tomb.	do.	
14.	524.	Articles belonging to Zinshah.	do.	
15.	525.	Mamaleshawar temple.	do.	
16.	526.	Do.	do.	
17.	527.	Cave of Amarnath.		
18.	528.	Do.		
19.	529.	Do.		
20.	530.	Sivalinga of snow at Amarnath.		
21.	531.	Basement of a temple at Shadipura.		
22.	532.	Ruinous temple at Devalgam.		
23.	533.	Do.		
24.	534.	Amarnath cave of snow Shiva's emblem.		
25.	535.	Khawaja Hatet's tomb at Nishbal.		
26.	536.	Zainul-abidin's mosque in the island of Lank in Wuler.		
27.	537.	Remains of a temple do.		
28.	538.	W. Moorcraft with R. Baldev Sen of Mandi.		
29.	539.	Memorial stone.		
30.	540.	Do.		
31.	541.	Memorial stones at Thanamandi.		
32.	542.	Do.		
33.	543.	Do.		
34.	544.	Do.		
35.	545.	Image of Vishnu.		
36.	546.	Do.		
37.	547.	Stone elephant at Hathinala near Khodi village in the Tahsil of Rampur Rajauri.		
38.	548.	Do.		
39.	549.	Do.		
40	550.	Do.		